

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3887

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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C O N F I D E N T I A L L O N D O N 1 1 8 9 2

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, UN, CY

SUBJECT: DEVELOPING BRITISH POSITION ON UNFICYP

SUMMARY: BRITISH ARE STUDYING PROBLEM OF UNFICYP MANDATE
WITH EYE TO ITS PROBABLE DISCUSSION AT UN IN DECEMBER.
THEY ARE THINKING OF POSSIBLE REDUCTIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. UNFICYP WAS DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH WITH CYPRUS
HICOMER OLIVER DURING FIRST DAY OF UK CONSULTATIONS
SEPTEMBER 9. FCO FEELING IS THAT DESIRE FOR REVIEW OF
UNFICYP MANDATE WILL BECOME IRRESISTIBLE BY TIME DECEMBER
RENEWAL DATE ARRIVES. WHILE FCO ASSURES US UK WILL CON-
TINUE TO RESIST CHANGE IN MANDATE, ACTING SOUTHEAST
EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT HEAD WESTON (LATELY WITH UKUN) NOTES
BRITISH THEMSELVES WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT MAINTAIN THEIR
RECENT LEVEL OF TROOP SUPPORT.

2. INTERNAL HMG STUDY IS UNDERWAY ON DESIRED SHAPE AND
SIZE OF UNFICYP. IT WOULD CONSIDER THREE ALTERNATIVES:
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(A) THAT SITUATION ON THE GROUND REMAINS ABOUT AS AT

PRESENT, (B) THAT THERE HAS BEEN SOME SORT OF NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT ALONG FEDERAL LINES, AND (C) THAT TURKISH SECTOR HAS UNILATERALLY DECLARED ITS INDEPENDENCE, EUPHEMISTICALLY PUT AS "AUTONOMY."

3. ACCORDING TO WESTON, BRITISH WOULD SUPPOSE THAT ANY AGREED SETTLEMENT CONNOTED MARKED REDUCTION OF INTERCOMMUNAL TENSIONS--THEREFORE REDUCTION OF UNFICYP. HE HAS NOT BEEN TO CLEAR ON WHAT THE OTHER ALTERNATIVES MIGHT CONNOTE.

4. HOWEVER, WE HAVE IMPRESSION THAT BURDEN OF OLIVER'S CASE TENDED TO SUPPORT REDUCTION IN NUMBERS OF UNFICYP PERSONNEL. WE ASSUME THIS WAS PREDICATED ON INEFFECTICACY OF PRESENT FORCE AS MILITARY FACTOR IN CURRENT CRISIS. WE ARE NOT SURE, HOWEVER, HOW BRITISH MIGHT COME DOWN ON VARIOUS OTHER OPTIONS: E.G. CREATION OF BUFFER UN FORCE BETWEEN TWO SEPARATE ZONES.

5. WE SHALL CONTINUE INTERMITTENTLY TO EXPLORE BRITISH THINKING ON UNFICYP, JUST AS WE ASSUME USUN WILL TOO. FOR ONE THING, DISCUSSION OF OPTIONS GIVEN ABOVE CAN THROW LIGHT ON BRITISH THINKING REGARDING WIDER QUESTION OF SHAPE ANY CYPRUS SETTLEMENT MIGHT TAKE.
SOHM

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